

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1998

960B0848

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

5

Introduced by: Senator Rounds and Representative Pederson (Gordon)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the Congress of the United States to pass legislation
2 reauthorizing the federal highway program by May 1, 1998.

3 WHEREAS, a safe and efficient highway system is essential to the nation's international
4 competitiveness, key to domestic productivity, and vital to our quality of life; and

5 WHEREAS, South Dakota has critical highway investment needs that cannot be addressed
6 with current financial resources. The South Dakota Department of Transportation rates two
7 thousand four hundred nine miles of South Dakota's most important roads in either poor or fair
8 condition and judges one hundred forty-eight of our bridges to be structurally deficient or
9 functionally obsolete; and

10 WHEREAS, the current level of federal funding for the nation's highway system is
11 inadequate to meet rehabilitation needs, to protect the safety of the traveling public, to begin
12 solving congestion and rural access problems, to conduct adequate transportation research, and
13 to keep the United States competitive in a global economy; and

14 WHEREAS, the federal highway program is financed by dedicated user fees collected from
15 motorists to improve the highway system and deposited in the federal Highway Trust Fund. The

1 Taxpayer Relief Act of 1998 transferred all federal motor fuel taxes into the Highway Trust Fund
2 but provided no mechanism to ensure the funds are spent; and

3 WHEREAS, the 1998 congressional budget would constrain federal highway spending well
4 below the level of highway tax receipts, allowing the Highway Trust Fund's cash balance to grow
5 from just over twenty-two billion dollars today to more than seventy billion dollars by 2003; and

6 WHEREAS, South Dakota and other states will be prohibited from obligating any federal
7 highway funds after April 30, 1998, unless Congress and the President enact new highway
8 legislation by that date; and

9 WHEREAS, without federal highway funds, many states will be forced to delay life-saving
10 safety improvements, congestion relief projects, and other road and bridge improvements:

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Seventy-third Legislature
12 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, the South
13 Dakota Legislature urges the United States Congress to enact legislation reauthorizing the
14 federal highway program by May 1, 1998; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the reauthorization bill shall fund the federal highway
16 program at the highest level that the user-financed Highway Trust Fund will support.